

**Diversion of RD funds in AP**

1289. SHRI N.R. DASARI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the funds allotted for various Rural Development Schemes in Andhra Pradesh is being diverted to some other works than the allotted schemes;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes and funds allotted with respect to Andhra Pradesh during the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) the actual amount utilised for the works under the schemes and the amount found to be diverted to some other works;

(d) whether any action has been taken against such diversion of funds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) No report of diversion of funds allotted for Rural Development Schemes to Andhra Pradesh has been received.

(b) and (c) The amount released by the Ministry of Rural Development to the State of Andhra Pradesh and the amount utilised by the State for the Rural Development Schemes during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are indicated below:

| (Rs. in crores) |         |                              |
|-----------------|---------|------------------------------|
| Year            | Release | Utilisation                  |
| 1999-2000       | 640.49  | 881.39                       |
| 2000-2001       | 627.84  | 398.27 (up to December 2000) |

(d) and (e) Question do not arise.

**Gujarat villages under Gram Sadak Yojana**

†1290. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have formulated any Gram Sadak Yojana to connect all the villages having 500 population with the road;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi

[7th March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, whether there is any programme to connect the villages of Gujarat State under this Plan; and

(c) if so, the number of villages of Gujarat proposed to be connected and by when?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) has been launched with a view to providing road connectivity, through good All-weather roads, to all unconnected Habitations with a population of more than 500 persons by the year 2007, depending on availability of funds. This Programme is extended to all States, including Gujarat.

#### **Unemployed persons in rural areas**

1291. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the estimated number of unemployed persons in rural areas of the country particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) whether any evaluation of the Central Government's programmes has been made to increase employment opportunities in rural areas in the country; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) A statement showing estimated number of unemployed persons in rural areas of the country, including Maharashtra, is enclosed (see below).

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission has conducted an evaluation study on Employment Assurance Scheme and submitted its report in April, 2000. Total 14 Districts including Maharashtra have been covered in their Report. The relevant finding of the Report is that with the available funds, the employment generation was not able to meet the demand. Ministry of Rural Development have requested from time to time for more funds.